

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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December 9, 2010

**ADOPTED**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 393 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, California 90012 71-A December 14, 2010

SACHI A. HAMAI

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

APPOINTMENT AND SALARY FOR LEAD ATTORNEY, CHILDREN'S SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (CSIU) (3 VOTES)

This letter recommends appointment of Amy Shek Naamani as Lead Attorney, Children's Special Investigations Unit, at an annual salary of \$193,045.

#### IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

- 1. Appoint Ms. Shek Naamani as the Lead Attorney, Children's Special Investigations Unit, effective December 14, 2010.
- 2. Approve an annual salary of \$193,045 for Ms. Shek Naamani, which will also be effective December 14, 2010.
- 3. Delegate hiring authority to Ms. Shek Naamani to hire staff within the Children's Special Investigations Unit budget.
- 4. Instruct County Counsel to work with Ms. Shek Naamani to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding and prepare any ordinance changes to formalize the Children's Special Investigations Unit and its reporting structure.

### PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDAITON ACTION

Ms. Shek Naamani has over 17 years experience practicing law in California which includes experience handling cases involving child abuse and neglect through all phases including initial filing, adjudication and post trail hearings, as well as participating in child death reviews and legislative analysis of child welfare issues. Currently, Ms. Shek Naamani is the Acting Lead Attorney for the Children's Special Investigations Unit.

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In her capacity as Lead Attorney, Children's Special Investigations Unit, Ms. Shek Naamani serves as special counsel to the Board of Supervisors and provides the Board an independent legal review of child deaths and serious incidents of child abuse or neglect. Ms. Shek Naamani also provides the Board, on an attorney-client basis, recommendations to improve the County's delivery of services to children at risk of abuse or neglect and thereby improve the well-being of the children in contact with County departments.

Given Ms. Shek Naamani's extensive experience in child welfare law and the critical nature of this position, it is recommended that the Board of Supervisors appoint Ms. Naamani as the Lead Attorney, Children's Special Investigations Unit, effective December 14, 2010, with an annual salary of \$193,045.

In addition, it is recommended that the Board delegate hiring authority to Ms. Naamani to hire staff within the Children's Special Investigations Unit. Currently there is one secretary to support the unit, a part-time investigator and herself. It is therefore, critical that Ms. Naamani has the authority to hire staff within the Children's Special Investigations Unit's budget.

Lastly, it is recommended that the Board instruct County Counsel and Ms. Naamani to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding and prepare any ordinance changes to formalize the Children's Special Investigations Unit's authority and reporting structure within the County.

#### Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This appointment is in conformance with the County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan's Children's Family and Adult-Well-Being Goal and will ensure continued achievement of integrated, cost-effective and child-centered supportive services in the County.

#### FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Funding for this position is available in the Executive Office's Fiscal year 2010-2011 operating budget.

#### FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The recommended salary will provide appropriate compensation to Ms. Shek Naamani to perform the duties of the Lead Attorney, Children's Special Investigations Unit.

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## IMPCACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Implementation of this recommendation will provide leadership for the Children's Special Investigations Unit.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

SAH:lc

c: Chief Executive Officer

County Counsel Director of Personnel